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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 22nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DEKANY (Hungary)
(Vice-Chairman)

later: Mr. KRENKEL (Austria)
(Chairman)

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In the absence of Mr. Krenkel (Austria), Mr. Dekany (Hungary), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 94: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (A/47/38, A/47/82-S/23512, A/47/88-S/23563, A/47/340, 368, 377, 391, 508 and 564)

1. Mrs. WADIBIA-ANYANWU (Nigeria) welcomed the efforts being made to improve the status of women in the Secretariat and urged the Secretary-General to appoint more women to the upper echelons of the Organization.

2. Her Government had long acknowledged the contribution of women to national development and had sought to ensure overall equality of treatment for women. To that end, it had set up a National Commission on Women, which had actively promoted the participation of women in the socio-economic, political and cultural spheres. In order to ensure that those efforts were continued following the changeover from military to civilian rule, the current administration had established the Centre for Women's Affairs.

3. Women's organizations in Nigeria, which enjoyed the full support of the Government, were concerned mainly with efforts to improve the status of women and with campaigns against drug abuse among youth. Nigerian women planned to continue their efforts to implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies; in that connection, the First Lady of her country had been an active participant in the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, held at Geneva from 25 to 26 February 1992, which had identified modalities for improving the status and well-being of rural women, who constituted nearly 40 per cent of the total work force.

4. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) would continue to be an important force in the advancement of women. Her delegation called on INSTRAW to make greater efforts to strengthen women's role in the informal sector, in particular by formulating policy in that area and by providing training, credit and other assistance.

5. It was disheartening that women throughout the world scarcely participated in decision-making processes, that few women were in leadership positions and that the gap between de jure and de facto equality continued to widen. The international community must act vigorously to enhance the participation of women in public and private life and, in that connection, she welcomed the decision taken by the Secretary-General to formalize the post of Focal Point for Women within the Office of Human Resources Management.

6. Her delegation held the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in high regard and supported the proposal that the Committee should meet for three weeks at its next and subsequent sessions, in order to reduce the enormous backlog of reports.

(Mrs. Wadibia-Anyanwu, Nigeria)

7. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) played a major role in integrating women in the development process. Her delegation agreed that the time had come for the world to draw from a wider pool of talent and, in so doing, offer more innovative avenues for change. While Nigerian rural women were prepared for those changes, they would need assistance in the form of UNIFEM operational projects and programmes.

8. Mrs. BIRAUD (France) said that while the progress made thus far, in advancing the status of women, should not be minimized, discrimination against women persisted in many forms, among them the increasing feminization of poverty and violence against women. Her delegation accordingly welcomed the convening of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the agenda of which included a review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the elaboration of a Platform for Action. The review and appraisal should take as its sources the standard and well-known documents on efforts to implement the Strategies, as well as less familiar material dealing with such topics as the "invisible" population of women working in agriculture, the informal sector and at home. Elaborating the Platform for Action would require a combination of realism, creativity and foresight and, in that regard, it would be useful to conduct a region-by-region review, summarizing in each case the achievements made in advancing the cause of women, prospects for the future, obstacles to further progress, the resources needed and suggested priorities.

9. Regional meetings were important forums for preparing the Conference and should be provided with the necessary financial and technical assistance. France would be hosting in November 1992 a meeting of the scientific committee established at the inter-African meetings on women and development.

10. The success of the Fourth World Conference on Women, like that of the other major conferences held or to be held during the first half of the 1990s, depended on adequate financial and human resources. Financial investments reflected the importance of a particular issue to the international community, which could not but continue its efforts to promote the advancement of women.

11. Given the extent of its expertise, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) would no doubt play a major role in preparations for the World Conference. It was unfortunate that, despite its valiant efforts, CEDAW was significantly behind schedule in considering the reports submitted to it by States parties. Its increased workload should be taken into consideration in allocating time and resources to it. Priority should be given to the consideration of initial reports, since the information in many second and third reports was already out of date by the time they came to be considered. Her delegation endorsed the proposal to allocate three weeks for the twelfth and subsequent sessions of CEDAW, until the backlog of reports was eliminated.

(Mrs. Biraud, France)

12. With regard to the status of women in the Secretariat, the facts spoke for themselves: very few women in posts at the D-1 level and above and fewer career prospects for women than for men at all levels. Her delegation noted with satisfaction the proposals made by the Secretary-General to remedy the situation, as contained in document A/47/508, and the efforts being made to increase the promotion of women at the P-2 to P-5 levels. The issue of women in higher-level posts had not been satisfactorily resolved, however. The recruitment of women representing different geographical regions and working languages should be encouraged. The fault lay not only with the Secretariat but also with Member States, which tended to propose a disproportionate number of male candidates for posts.

13. Her delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies (A/47/377), which clearly defined the priority themes to be considered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session. It appreciated the report's emphasis on the links between all forms of violence - domestic, social and international - and its observation that violence against women increased in times of social unrest. The latter phenomenon was all too evident in the former Yugoslavia, where females of all ages had been victims of sexual violence. The international community must denounce those acts, which reflected a systematic policy of inflicting degrading treatment, and take measures to prevent them and to assist the victims.

14. The draft declaration on violence against women, to be considered at the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women, would help to break the conspiracy of silence regarding violence against women in all its forms. Adoption of the declaration by the United Nations would increase the credibility of female victims of violence and affirm that such acts were a violation of individual dignity.

15. Development theories and strategies for alleviating poverty had thus far failed to include any gender analysis and the development process had largely been assumed by most theorists to be "gender-neutral". Women benefited less from economic growth than men, however, and paid a higher price in times of economic crisis. It was time to give specific consideration to the impact on women of development strategies and international assistance and cooperation. The report on the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) (A/47/340) would be very valuable in that connection. Her Government fully endorsed the Fund's basic principles - to help women make their needs known and control their own destinies - and it would, as in 1991, be increasing its contribution to UNIFEM.

16. Another vital issue for women was access to knowledge regarding their rights under the law. Every legal system reflected the society it served and the place of women within that society. Teaching women the principles of law represented more than practical assistance; it helped them develop the analytical skills necessary to bring about their own advancement.

(Mrs. Biraud, France)

17. The situation of elderly women was an acute problem, particularly in developing countries, and required urgent consideration. If left unresolved, that problem might turn out to be a major impediment to the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies.

18. Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that those States were continuing their efforts to implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and commended the United Nations system for its invaluable contribution in that regard.

19. The priority themes to be considered at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women - equality, development and peace - were of the greatest relevance in the current international context. Social issues had to be given top priority and, in that connection, it should be recalled that women and children represented the overwhelming majority of victims of poverty or violence, or both.

20. It had been repeatedly demonstrated that women lacked equality under the law and in practice. While a growing number of Governments had become parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and were thus legally bound to ensure equal treatment for women, de jure equality was only a first step. Women as well as men needed to learn about women's rights under the law. To that end, the University of the West Indies had, in cooperation with the Institute of Social Studies at The Hague, developed a programme of women and development studies which made a critical analysis of women's lives and the relationships between men and women. The University's research efforts had helped the region to achieve greater gender equity; it was also developing models of sustainable development, which were of use in policy planning and implementation.

21. The States members of CARICOM welcomed the adoption by the Commission on the Status of Women of resolution 36/5, which emphasized that mobilization of women was a crucial element in achieving the objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. The failure of policy makers to take gender fully into account in macro- and microeconomic planning had had a negative impact on women and had lessened the effectiveness of the policies themselves. That issue was particularly relevant in the Caribbean region, where women had traditionally performed a wide variety of functions in the labour force.

22. At the same time, the condition of women had largely been determined by economic factors at the national and international levels. In the Caribbean region, declining economic growth and a heavy debt burden had resulted in trade liberalization, fiscal restraint and a drastic reduction in social services. Adapting microeconomic policies to the fundamental changes at the international level had been a formidable challenge for the CARICOM States and, as first pointed out by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), women and children were shouldering a disproportionate share of the burden of structural adjustment.

(Mrs. Mair, Jamaica)

23. The regional commissions had made significant contributions towards implementing the Forward-looking Strategies and should not be overlooked during the system-wide review of the United Nations. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) had focused on the most vulnerable population groups and on their role as agents in the development process. It had sought to create a framework for changing production patterns under conditions of social equity and, in that context, had stressed the need for access to education and knowledge. It was also working to develop youth services in low-income urban areas, stressing the democratic distribution of power within the family - an objective with positive implications for women. The Commission had recently emphasized the need to provide adequate resources for regional preparatory activities for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

24. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had identified the marginalization of women as a major aspect of the phenomenon of poverty and was working to help poor and vulnerable population groups gain access to resources and support institutions. A key principle underlying such activities was to encourage people to develop and to exert control over their lives; UNIFEM was performing a vital role in that regard. The CARICOM States had all benefited from UNIFEM efforts, and they joined in appealing for more resources for the Fund. They also appreciated the work of INSTRAW, in particular its assistance to ECLAC and its efforts to develop training materials to help integrate women in the development process.

25. Women had participated to an unprecedented degree in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the conference preparatory work. They had, for the most part, done so as representatives of non-governmental organizations, which had been among the most dynamic actors in the process. It was those women who had made sure that the links between women and the environment and between women and development had been acknowledged by the Conference. In addition, Agenda 21 had stressed that Governments must ensure the full implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies by the year 2000.

26. That holistic view of development led to the question of peace, which was a vital goal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. It also related fundamentally to the report of the Secretary-General entitled An Agenda for Peace, which identified economic despair, social injustice and political oppression as the causes of conflict. Unfortunately, women had been among the major recipients of such threats to security. That report also reinforced the moral guidelines for women's advancement by stressing that the goals of equality, development and peace were indivisible. However, the decision-making processes which threatened the achievement of those goals were mostly inaccessible to women. Sadly, the striking absence of women from public life and decision-making positions reflected the huge gap between rhetoric and reality. Serious attempts were being made to address that issue in the CARICOM region, with varying degrees of success.

(Mrs. Mair, Jamaica)

27. On that same issue, the United Nations had a social responsibility to meet the mandated targets aimed at correcting the gross underrepresentation of women at senior levels in the Secretariat. While some progress had been made, the situation at high decision-making levels remained unacceptable. Intensified efforts by the United Nations administration and Member States were therefore required. She concluded by thanking the Government and people of China for offering to host the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995.

28. Ms. MANSARAY (Sierra Leone) said that, in Africa, 1992 had presented challenges for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) as a result of political upheavals and the ensuing hardships. UNIFEM had also focused on the plight of women refugees and the local impact of large influxes of refugees. Her delegation urged Member States to support UNIFEM so that it could continue to mobilize resources for the benefit of African women.

29. In Sierra Leone, the fact that full and equal rights for men and women were embodied in the Constitution had little real impact on women's lives. The participation of women in the socio-economic sector was limited by a number of factors. Most women were confined to low-skilled, low-paying jobs, and the traditionally strong emphasis placed on their reproductive role limited their ability to take advantage of education and training opportunities. In addition, they suffered from poor health as a result of repeated childbearing, poor nutrition and heavy domestic and economic responsibilities. Maternal, infant and child mortality rates all remained high. Experience had shown, however, that there was a strong positive correlation between education and the overall well-being and living standards of women and their families. In that respect, particular attention should be focused on rural women, who were generally the most deprived both economically and educationally. Land rights posed another serious problem for African women working in the agricultural sector: they seldom had title to land or access to credit, technology and other extension services, and their situation was further exacerbated by growing population pressures on the land.

30. Since the ratification by Sierra Leone of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, women had been encouraged to participate in public life. Their political awareness was being raised and various organizations were helping to promote women's issues. Nevertheless, women were often prevented from exercising their right of full involvement in political life or national development, either because of their unequal educational status or because of expectations related to their traditional family roles and responsibilities. Although progress had been made in some areas of the country, opportunities for women to enter politics needed a further boost. The virtual absence of women from decision-making positions meant that their role in policy formulation and implementation was absolutely minimal.

31. While the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies had been a major milestone in United Nations efforts to promote the advancement of women, much remained

(Ms. Mansaray, Sierra Leone)

to be done. That should not discourage increased efforts to remove the obstacles to their implementation in each country, however. Lastly, she commended the work done by UNICEF in Sierra Leone, particularly its highly effective immunization programmes and its efforts to advance the status of women. She urged other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to emulate its example.

32. Ms. AL-HAMAMI (Yemen) said that the new world order brought about by the end of the cold war presented new challenges which required that the international community act with the spirit of justice and responsibility enshrined in the principles of international law and in the Charter of the United Nations. Issues relating to socio-economic development should figure on the international agenda, for unless social and economic problems were solved, particularly in the developing countries, there could be no elimination of tension and conflict and no achievement of wider democracy and human rights.

33. The organic link between women and development was clearer than ever before. Her delegation commended the report of the Secretary-General on the advancement of women (A/47/377), particularly its proposal for increased support for women's associations, which would ultimately help women to acquire the skills and expertise they needed to participate more fully and actively in the development process. Her delegation believed that the international community should seize the opportunity provided by the new world order to further the advancement of women with a view to achieving their participation in development. In that context, it hoped that the objectives of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies would be achieved and would have positive repercussions on the lives of women, particularly in the developing countries. Similarly, the recommendations concerning women and the environment adopted at the United Conference on Environment and Development should be promptly implemented. Her Government wished to thank the Government of China for offering to host the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, which should address the neglected issue of rural women's rights.

34. The international community and international organizations should give more support to national human resources development in the developing countries: strengthening the role of women would help to combat ignorance and tackle the problems of health and housing. Meanwhile, eliminating discrimination against women still posed a challenge to the international community and international organizations. In the United Nations Secretariat, for instance, women should have equal opportunities with men to hold senior posts.

35. Her country's Constitution and legislation guaranteed full equality and employment rights to Yemeni women, some of whom held top positions in Parliament, in judicial bodies and in government institutions. Women were active in politics, trade unions and public life. However, the advancement of Yemeni women and their integration in the development process would fall short

(Ms. Al-Hamami, Yemen)

of the desired goals unless the international community increased its support for the Government's programmes, particularly those involving rural women, health care and housing. Lastly, she urged the international community and the relevant international organizations to pay more attention to the situation of women living under occupation or racist regimes, or in areas which had suffered natural or man-made disasters.

36. Mr. Krenkel (Austria) took the Chair.

37. Mr. BURCUOGLU (Turkey) said that his country would play an active role in preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women and was planning initiatives in that regard at both the national and the international level. It hoped that the Conference would give further impetus to the advancement of women and would promote their integration in development and their participation in the decision-making process. Turkey attached particular importance to efforts to eliminate violence against women and welcomed the progress made in preparing a draft declaration on that question. He hoped that the declaration would be adopted in 1993.

38. His country was a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was a major legal instrument for establishing genuine equality between the sexes. Turkey was gratified to note the number of recent ratifications and urged States that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention in order to ensure its universality. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was playing a very useful role in promoting the adoption of anti-discriminatory legislation at the national level.

39. The gap between de jure and de facto equality persisted. Women were sometimes unaware of their rights and, when they were aware of them, often encountered difficulties in exercising them. Public information on the rights of women was therefore of decisive importance.

40. Turkey was making a consistent effort to overcome obstacles affecting women in the areas of education, employment and health. Ongoing projects focused on women living in rural areas and the least developed regions of the country. The access of girls and women to all levels of education and to vocational training and the participation of women in all areas of development as both beneficiaries and active agents had been established as guiding principles. A government department dealt exclusively with questions relating to women's employment. A job quota for disabled women had been set in all sectors. Turkey was also seeking to promote the role of women in public and political life and their participation in decision-making. A general directorate on the status of women was responsible for drawing up coherent national policies and mobilizing resources to ensure the effective integration of women in the development process. The directorate was also seeking to ensure higher levels of education for women, to increase their participation in the agricultural, industrial and service sectors and to provide legal, health and social protection for them.

(Mr. Burcuoglu, Turkey)

41. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (A/47/508), he said that the increase in the percentage of women in posts subject to geographical distribution must be maintained in order to achieve the 35 per cent target set for 1995. He noted with satisfaction the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001, which for the first time covered all aspects of the question.

42. Ms. DROZD (Belarus) said that her delegation attached particular importance to more effective involvement of women in the development process, with a view to achieving the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. Since women were responsible for key aspects of industrial and economic development, their broad participation in development promoted the advancement of women in society. Economic development did not automatically bring about an equal distribution of resources and women did not gain from the development process to the same extent as men. Disregarding the problems of women in economic policy had a disproportionately negative impact on the status of women and generally led to poverty, particularly in times of economic recession. That phenomenon was currently taking place in Belarus, where the situation of women had deteriorated catastrophically during the transition to a market economy. Women were among the most socially disadvantaged groups in society and were more severely affected by the problem of unemployment. The restructuring of the economy had reduced the number of jobs and sharply increased the number of job applicants. Single mothers, single women of retirement age and women engaged in part-time employment were among the thousands of people living near to or below the poverty level. More than 50 per cent of unemployed women had to care for one or two young children.

43. To cope with that complicated economic situation, her Government had planned a series of measures to improve the employment status of women by introducing flexible working hours and retraining schemes, particularly for women with children. Steps had also been taken to increase the participation of women in entrepreneurial activities. Much remained to be done and Belarus wished to learn about the experience of other countries in tackling those problems. The involvement of older women in the development process was an other important question, in view of the important contribution which they could make on the basis of their broad occupational and life experience.

44. Belarus supported the proposed agenda for the Fourth World Conference on Women contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/377). Nevertheless, in view of the fact that one main objective of the Conference was to evaluate the progress made in enhancing the status of women and to mobilize women to achieve that goal, she felt it would be useful to include the question of women and development on the agenda. As part of preparations for the Conference, her Government planned to hold in 1993, within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a conference on problems related to improving the status of women.

45. Ms. ENKHTSETSEG (Mongolia) said that the ongoing implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies had helped create much needed awareness by women of their rights. At its next session, the Commission on the Status of Women should consider issues related to legal literacy and women in extreme poverty as priority themes. The main objectives of the Strategies were as relevant as ever. The Fourth World Conference on Women would provide fresh impetus to the implementation of the Strategies, and preparatory activities at the national and regional level were of vital importance for its success. Governments should establish national committees or focal points to serve as catalysts for preparations by initiating, organizing and coordinating national activities relating to the Conference. Her delegation favoured active involvement by non-governmental organizations in both the preparatory activities and the Conference itself. Mongolia urged those countries which had not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

46. Her delegation highly commended the work of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), which served as an important catalyst for innovative projects on behalf of women. UNIFEM was providing support to the Mongolian Women's Federation in a pilot project for needy women. Her Government was seeking to improve the situation of women to the extent possible under current economic conditions and to enable them to participate actively in all spheres of social life. Although equal rights for women were guaranteed under Mongolian legislation, much remained to be done to achieve equality in practice. Despite the difficult economic situation facing the country, her Government wished to reaffirm its commitment to take every possible step to ensure the advancement of women in Mongolia.

47. Ms. NEELS (Namibia) said that the establishment of women's organizations following Namibia's independence had been an important part of national efforts to improve the situation of women. The Namibian Constitution prohibited discrimination based on sex and protected women's rights as individuals and within the family. The Department of Women's Affairs of the Office of the President sought to promote awareness and involvement on the part of Government ministries, non-governmental organizations and women from all walks of life. The Department had conducted training workshops in small-business management to assist income-generating projects run by women, in order to make women self-sufficient. Its staff members had attended training courses to learn strategies for integrating women in all spheres of development. The Government had also embarked on a national literacy programme which included gender-related training for literacy promoters in order to respond to the specific needs of women.

48. The recently enacted Local Government Act stipulated that at least 40 per cent of representatives on local and regional councils must be women, thereby promoting their participation in the decision-making process. Her Government was preparing to accede to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. In view of the Convention's importance, the Department of Women's Affairs had published it in booklet form

(Ms. Neels, Namibia)

and was conducting workshops in all regions of the country to make women aware of their rights. That effort would not have been possible without the staunch support of UNICEF.

49. The Department of Women's Affairs had forged links with community-based groups to deal with the problem of violence against women. Her Government supported the proposal for a declaration on violence against women. Namibian women had established organizations and unions to find solutions to their problems. The Namibia National Women's Organization, a non-political umbrella organization, had been set up and various credit unions, trade unions and student organizations were actively involved in improving the living standards of women. Generous assistance from international organizations, especially the various United Nations agencies involved, had made it possible to achieve considerable progress in that field. Lastly, her delegation welcomed the upcoming Fourth World Conference on Women and hoped that it would highlight the situation of rural women in development.

AGENDA ITEM 93: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(a) QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.11, L.13, L.15 and L.17)

(b) CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.14 and L.16)

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.11

50. Mr. ELDEEB (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.11 on policies and programmes on youth, said that the draft resolution was in line with recent developments in international cooperation on youth welfare and was sufficiently balanced and objective to permit a consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.13

51. Mrs. TAVARES DE ALVAREZ (Dominican Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.13 on the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, said that the Bahamas, Chile, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Mali, Panama, Paraguay, Senegal and Suriname had become sponsors. The main purpose of the draft resolution was to endorse the global targets on ageing for the year 2001 contained in document A/47/339. The targets provided a pragmatic focus for achieving the goals of the International Plan of Action and would help accelerate its implementation. Other recommendations contained in the draft resolution would facilitate the integration of older persons into existing programmes and activities. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.15

52. Ms. LIMJUCO (Philippines) made the following revisions to draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.15 on persons with disabilities: in the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "during the Decade" should be deleted; in paragraph 3 (b), the words "and providing preventive and rehabilitative measures and an equalization of opportunities" should be added after the words "socio-economic issues"; in paragraph 8 (e), the words "revision of the" should be added after the words "Finalizing the"; in paragraph 8 (h), the words "in close collaboration with UNOV/CSDHA" should be added after the word "Division"; and in paragraph 11, the words "decides to continue, in response to General Assembly resolution 46/91 and Economic and Social Council decision 1992/276, the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability and" should be added in the first line before the word "Encourages" and in the second line of the same paragraph the words "Voluntary" and "on Disability" should be deleted. The following countries had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Australia, Costa Rica, Greece, Iceland, Japan, Mali, Mongolia, Norway, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Trinidad and Tobago and Turkey.

53. The draft resolution drew attention to the increasing number of persons with disabilities and requested the Secretary-General to redirect the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons from awareness-raising to action and to provide it with adequate funding from external sources. She hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.17

54. Ms. ENKHTSETSEG (Mongolia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.17 on the role of cooperatives, announced that Belarus, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Kenya, Micronesia and the Philippines had become sponsors. The draft resolution drew attention to the centenary, in 1995, of the establishment of the International Cooperative Alliance and welcomed the idea of observing an international day of cooperatives. It encouraged Governments to consider the potential of cooperatives for contributing to the solution of economic, social and environmental problems in formulating national development strategies.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.14

55. Mr. TSEPOV (Russian Federation), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.14 on international cooperation in combating organized crime, said that Trinidad and Tobago had become a sponsor and that Colombia had ceased to be a sponsor. The draft resolution reaffirmed that priority must be given to the struggle against all activities of organized crime, urged Member States to give favourable consideration to the implementation of the Guidelines for the prevention and control of organized crime and requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to continue to consider ways of strengthening international cooperation in combating organized crime. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.16

56. Mr. OULD MOHAMED LEMINE (Mauritania) introduced, on behalf of the Group of African States, draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.16 on the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The draft resolution expressed appreciation to those Governments and intergovernmental organizations that had supported the Institute and called for increased resources to be allocated to it to enable the Institute to carry out all its mandates. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.